

REMARKS

The Examiner has taken the position that restriction to one of two groups of claims is required under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner states that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

Group I: Claims 1-12, drawn to stent, classified in class 623, subclass 1.15.

Group II: Claims 13-20, drawn to method of making a stent, classified in class 264, subclass 117.

Applicants provisionally elect with traverse Group II, Claims 13-20, for prosecution on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims, i.e., Group I, claims 1-12, in a future divisional application. Applicants have canceled the non-elected claims, i.e. Group I, claims 1-12, without prejudice.

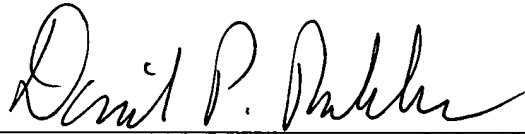
Applicants have amended claims 13-20 to correct grammatical errors and to place the claims in better condition for examination. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, on pages 22-27 of the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Claims 21-22 have been added. Support for claims 21 and 22 can be found, for example, on pages 26-27 of the specification and in the claims as originally filed. Claims 13-22 are now pending.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to the Associate Power of Attorney filed earlier during the prosecution of this application. In particular, Applicants request that all future correspondence should be solely directed to DAVID P. RUSCHKE, by email at (david.p.ruschke@medtronic.com), by telephone at 763-505-2913, and by facsimile at 763-505-2530.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representative if there are any questions regarding the Response or if prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby. Early substantive examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 18, 2005



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